(b) whether it is a act that Government propose to allow private sector to expand its production capacity by setting up new steel projects; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the quantity of steel likely to be produced through private sector by the end of the Eighth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) The quantity of crude steel produced by the secondary producers during 1989-90 was 3.13 million tonnes and that by the Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd. (TISCO) 2.32 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) It has been decided to allow creation of additional steel making capacity in the secondary sector with unit capacity upto one million tonne based on electric are furnace/energy optimising technologies including small blast furnaces. Entrepreneurs will have the option to decide the plant size keeping in view the product-mix and technology to be adopted. Six million tonnes of crude steel is expected to be produced by the secondary producers by the end of the Eighth Plan and 3.05 million tonnes by TISCO.

Refusal by POSCO to assist in setting up steel plant in Orissa

982. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pohang Steel Company (POSCO) of South Korea has refused to assist Government in setting up a steel plant at Paradeep in Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that Orissa Government has already started negotiation with other foreign countries for a second steel plant in the State; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) Government of India have not sought the assistance of Pohang Steel Corporation (POSCO) of South Korea for setting up a steel plant at Paradeep in Orissa.

(c) and (d) No formal proposal has been received from the Orissa State Government in regard to establishment of another steel plant in the State.

पटसन का उत्पादन

983. श्री राम जेठमलानी : सरदार अजीत सिंह अरोड़ा क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस वर्ष पटसन का उत्पादन 68 लाख गांठों से अधिक होने की संभावना है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि पटसन उत्पादकों को उनकी उपज का लाभकारी मूल्य प्रदान करने के लिये, सरकार ने भारतीय पटसन निगम के माध्यम से पटसन खरीदने का निर्णय किया है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो भारतीय पटसन निगम ने इस वर्ष कितना पटसन खरीदने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है और इस प्रकार खरीदे गये पटसन का भंडारण करने के लिये की गई व्यवस्था का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वस्त्र मंत्री, साथ में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री शरद यादव) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, हां।

(ग) न्यूनतम समर्थन कीमत पर खरीद के लिये जे०सी०आई० की एक उन्मुक्त नीति है, जिसके तहत निगम तथा इसके राज्य स्तरीय खरीद संगठनों को किसानों द्वारा कच्चे पटसन की जितनी भी मात्रा उपलब्ध कराई जाती